

The Weather

Today: Mostly sunny, high 72°F (22°C)
Tonight: Clear, low 58°F (14°C)
Tomorrow: Sunny with an afternoon breeze, high 74°F (23°C)
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Tuesday, August 26, 2008

All Freshmen Placed In Top Four Dormitory Choices, Like Last Year

By Angeline Wang
NEWS AND FEATURES DIRECTOR

About the same percentage of incoming freshmen received their top choices in this year's Summer Housing Lottery compared with last year. The Housing Lottery placed the students of the Class of 2012 in their top four dormitory choices like last year; the two years prior, the freshman class was placed in their top three choices.

According to Robin Smedick, assistant director of undergraduate housing, 64 percent of the Class of 2012 received their first choice dormitory, 24 percent received their second choice, 11 percent received their third choice, and 1 percent received their fourth choice.

Last year, 61 percent of the Class of 2011 received their first choice residence, 27 percent received their second, 8 percent received their third, and 4 percent received their fourth. (See tables on page 9 for additional statistics.)

The Housing Office partners with Information Services & Technology on an algorithm that achieves the

highest rate of satisfaction for freshmen.

Slight changes in lottery results each year are a result of differences in student preferences and the number of spaces in each hall, Smedick said. This year, the addition of spaces in NW35 for freshmen may have also contributed to small changes. NW35 is the new graduate dormitory, Ashdown House, that will house a small community of undergraduates. This community will move into W1 when the building is converted into an undergraduate dorm in 2010.

Additionally, more people were interested in Next House this year over the previous year, Smedick said. "Last year, there were far fewer students ranking Next as a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd choice than this year," she said in an e-mail.

Beginning this fall, freshmen placed in Next House during the summer lottery will be able to enter the Housing Adjustment Lottery. The Adjustment Lottery allows freshmen to either choose to stay in the building they were assigned to during the summer or rank up to four other dorms to which they would like to move.

Freshmen placed in Next House were previously not able to switch into a different dormitory during their first year because of Residence-Based Advising. Students in Next House have long pushed for the change because they wanted more flexibility.

In order to accommodate the change, the Adjustment Lottery will be closing a few hours earlier than

Housing, Page 9

MIT Alumna Arrested in Afghanistan Disputes Govt. Case

By John A. Hawkinson
STAFF REPORTER

Aafia Siddiqui '95 — terrorist or victim?

In 1995, Aafia Siddiqui graduated from MIT with a degree in biology. She went on to get a PhD from Brandeis in cognitive neuroscience, and then she disappeared in 2003 in Karachi, Pakistan. These facts are undisputed.

From here it gets murky.

Siddiqui was arrested on July 17 in Ghazni, Afghanistan by Afghan authorities, who claim Siddiqui was arrested carrying chemicals and information pertaining to bombs.

The United States claims, in addition, that while in custody but unsecured, Siddiqui grabbed an assault rifle and shot at U.S. personnel. According to the U.S. account, a U.S. soldier returned fire and wounded her, after which she was airlifted to a U.S. hospital (at Bagram, Afghanistan) and then transported to New York two weeks later.

Siddiqui's lawyers express strong skepticism at the U.S. account, but don't offer any evidence for an alternative.

Her lawyers claim she was held in U.S. custody in Bagram for the past five years.

United States authorities, including a spokeswoman for the military at Bagram, all strongly deny that Siddiqui was held there. The U.S. maintains they have no idea where she has been.

Siddiqui is scheduled to be indicted in the Southern District of New York next Wednesday, Sept. 3.

Next House, NW35 Included as Options in Adjustment Lottery

By Joyce Kwan
STAFF REPORTER

Residence Exploration kicked off last Friday to introduce freshmen to the undergraduate dormitories at MIT. Many changes characterized this year's REX, including the addition of Next House and the new dormitory NW35 to the Adjustment Lottery, as well as the exclusion of Bexley Hall in Dormitory Council-sponsored REX events.

REX will conclude today at 4 p.m. when the Adjustment Lottery closes. Specific room assignments are determined Wednesday at each dormitory's "in-house rush," and freshmen will move into their new residence Thursday.

The addition of Next House to the Adjustment Lottery influenced REX to start and end earlier than in previous years. Moving REX to an earlier schedule allows time for students moving in and out of Next House to be assigned new advisors, according to Next House President Yi Huang '09.

Prior to this year, freshmen assigned to live in Next House during the summer could not enter the Adjustment Lottery because of its Residence-Based Advising system and had to stay in the dormitory for the entirety of their first year. Next House is now a part of the lottery as a result of many years of student complaints.

Another addition to this year's Adjustment Lottery is NW35, the new graduate dormitory that will house a small community of undergraduates. This group of undergrads will eventually live in W1, which is being converted from a graduate to an undergraduate dormitory and



ALEX H. CHAN—THE TECH

Jean Mario N. Martin '12 (behind) grapples with Andrew T. Carlson '12 in front of a cheering crowd during Burton-Conner House's Jell-O wrestling barbecue on Monday.

should be open in 2010.

Andrew K. Sugaya '11, Dormitory Council representative for NW35, said about 13 of the total 50 undergraduate spots in NW35 are allotted for freshmen.

According to Sugaya, NW35 is proving to be so popular that they are not trying very hard to attract more people. Freshmen already assigned to the dormitory seem content with its community and accommodations, which feature air conditioning and

spacious rooms.

The exclusion of Bexley Hall in DormCon-sponsored REX events is another change this year. In the spring, Bexley Hall stopped paying its yearly tax to DormCon, effectively seceding from the organization. Bexley residents have a tradition of not participating in student government or DormCon.

Freshmen will still be able to move in or out of Bexley in the Adjustment Lottery.

New Dean for Student Life Costantino 'Chris' Colombo Describes Important Issues at MIT

By Angeline Wang
NEWS AND FEATURES DIRECTOR

This is the second interview in a five-part series introducing incoming students to some of MIT's faculty, staff, and student leaders. Today, The Tech features an interview

with Costantino "Chris" Colombo, the new dean for student life, on his second day of work.

The Tech: What does being the dean for student life mean? How would you describe your role to new students?



DAVID M. TEMPLETON—THE TECH

Costantino "Chris" Colombo is MIT's new dean for student life.

Chris Colombo: As you know, I'm new, so I have to learn a great deal. What's always interesting when you come in with a new class [is that] you're as new as the class that's entering, so we'll probably learn a great deal about MIT together.

The expectations that have been [set] for the students and for their families about MIT and the services and quality of education are important. The role of the dean of student life is really to assist them with those expectations and try to deliver the services that are under the purview of the dean and also advocate for them on other issues that may not be in this realm of responsibility.

TT: You just came from Columbia, and you were the dean for student affairs there. Why did you decide to come to MIT?

CC: I'd been at Columbia 16 years — long time — and before that at Hopkins for 18 years. I did

Colombo, Page 10

MIT Student to Host Discovery Channel Show 'Time Warp'

By Billy Baker
THE BOSTON GLOBE

A lot of MIT graduate student Jeff I. Lieberman's work deals with human perception, which is interesting because the way Lieberman himself is perceived will soon teeter into weird new territory: He's going to star in a TV show.

In October, the Discovery Channel will premiere "Time Warp," a series that uses high-tech visual technologies, such as super high-speed video capable of recording 325,000 frames per second, to explore things that are outside of our perception. Lieberman, whose blend of art and science has already made him a rising star at MIT's famed Media Lab, will be the host.

If the show succeeds — and the

Lieberman, Page 9

In Short

MIT was ranked fourth along with Stanford University in this year's *U.S. News and World Report* college rankings, rising from seventh place last year. Harvard University, Princeton University, and Yale University were ranked the top three schools, respectively.

OPINION

Obama needs a clear message

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Olympic Games mark achievement for China

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WORLD & NATION

Zimbabwe Opposition, Now a Power in Parliament, Wins a Top Job

By Celia W. Dugger

THE NEW YORK TIMES

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

Jubilant opposition legislators in Zimbabwe’s parliament broke into song and dance on Monday after their candidate won the powerful position of speaker of parliament, defeating a nominee backed by President Robert Mugabe’s party, ZANU-PF.

The victory of the opposition candidate, Lovemore Moyo, by a vote of 110-98, underscored the opposition’s newfound control of parliament. Despite widespread attacks on its members, the opposition holds a majority in parliament for the first time since Zimbabwe achieved independence from white minority rule in 1980 — and now seems ready to wield that power.

The opposition’s rejoicing follows a grim period for the country since elections in March. Human rights groups say more than 100 opposition supporters have been murdered and thousands tortured and beaten by Mugabe’s state-sponsored enforcers. Opposition members of parliament, who feared until the moment of voting on Monday that Mugabe would somehow deprive them of their March victory, sang, “ZANU is rotten!”

Immigration Raid Detains Hundreds of Factory Workers

By Adam Nossiter

THE NEW YORK TIMES

LAUREL, MISS.

In another large-scale workplace immigration crackdown, federal officials raided a factory here on Monday, detaining at least 350 workers they said were in the country illegally.

Numerous agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement descended on a factory belonging to Howard Industries Inc., which manufactures electrical transformers, among other products.

As of late Monday afternoon, no criminal charges had been filed, said Barbara Gonzalez, an ICE spokeswoman, but she said that dozens of workers had been “identified, fingerprinted, interviewed, photographed, and processed for removal from the U.S.”

The raid follows a similar large-scale immigration operation at a meatpacking plant in Postville, Iowa, in May when nearly 400 workers were detained. That raid marked a significant escalation of the Bush administration’s enforcement practices because those detained were not simply deported, as in previous raids, but were imprisoned for months on criminal charges of using false documents.

Responding to a Housing Crisis

By Vikas Bajaj

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BOSTON

As a wave of home foreclosures courses through the United States, some of the nation’s hardest hit cities think they have found a way to ease the blight left on their communities by the crisis.

Using taxpayer money and private money, Boston, Minneapolis, San Diego and a handful of others are buying foreclosed properties to refurbish and resell them to developers and homeowners in an effort to prevent troubled neighborhoods from sliding into urban decay.

The efforts so far have been on a small scale. But local officials say they can become an important pillar of any housing recovery with the help of \$4 billion in federal grants that were part of a housing bill Congress approved in July.

The sale of foreclosed homes — not just to city governments but more broadly to investors and homeowners — contributed to a 3.1 percent increase in existing home sales in July, the highest level in five months, according to data released on Monday by the National Association of Realtors. That hardly means that the housing crisis is over, because the number of homes for sale climbed to another record level as more people put their homes on the market. But without buyers buying foreclosed homes at steeply discounted prices, the problem would be even worse.

Kennedy Provides Early Spark as Democrats Convene

By Adam Nagourney

THE NEW YORK TIMES

DENVER

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, struggling with terminal brain cancer, arrived on Monday night at the Democratic National Convention in a triumphant appearance that provided an emotional start for the event as the party turned to a new era and gathered to nominate Sen. Barack Obama for president.

Kennedy arrived at the convention center here shortly before dusk, accompanied by a flock of family members. He walked few halting steps to a waiting golf cart, which drove him into the Pepsi Center here, where Democrats are gathering this week.

Kennedy walked out with his wife, Vicki, who kissed him and left him at the lectern. The crowd, many of them wiping tears from their eyes, would not stop cheering until he settled them down

“My fellow Democrats, my fellow Americans, it is so wonderful to be here,” Kennedy said. “And nothing is going to keep me away from this special gathering tonight.”

“I have come here tonight,” he continued, “to stand with you to

change America to restore its future, to rise to our best ideals and to elect Barack Obama president of the United States.”

Every sentence was greeted by loud applause. And while Kennedy spoke slowly, he was firm and energetic, gesturing with a hand and sounding very much like the man who enraptured the party’s convention 28 years ago.

In a moment that captured the generational arc of the night — and the Kennedy family’s connection to Obama, whom Kennedy endorsed in a turning-point of his campaign — a video tribute to the Massachusetts senator was introduced by Caroline Kennedy, his niece and the daughter of President John F. Kennedy. Her tribute was as much to her uncle as to the man who brought her into national politics.

“I have never had someone inspire me the way people tell me my father inspired them, but I do now — Barack Obama,” Caroline Kennedy said. “And I know someone else who’s been inspired all over again by Sen. Obama. In our family, he’s known as Uncle Teddy. More than any senator of his generation, or perhaps any generation, Teddy has made life better for people in this country and around the world.”

As Democrats Take the Stage, GOP Prepares to Respond

By Jim Rutenberg

THE NEW YORK TIMES

DENVER

In a modern production studio about a mile from where the Democrats were opening their convention here Monday, a SWAT team of Republican operatives dispatched to crash Sen. Barack Obama’s party was reveling in its accomplishments.

Two new advertisements devised to stoke the sore feelings of Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton’s devotees were being widely covered online and on cable news channels; a news conference the Republicans produced of former Clinton supporters who said they were now backing Sen. John McCain drew a standing-room-only crowd of reporters; a “Happy Hour for Hillary” cocktail party was planned, to be followed by an appearance by McCain on “Tonight” with Jay Leno.

There was a time when the opposition party more or less ceded the stage to the convening party during its convention, under the assumption that breaking through the news coverage would be next to impossible anyway. Over the past few presidential election cycles, as Washington became more bitterly partisan, that began to disintegrate, helped along by a proliferation of new media outlets that created growing opportunities to spread negative messages.

But on the first day of the Democratic convention, it was clear to members of both parties that this year will break new ground, with each side planning to run full bore during the other party’s convention. Matt McDonald, a senior aide overseeing the Republican effort, said, he was “pleasantly surprised” by the operation’s success in insert-

“For 46 years, he has been so much more than just a senator for the people of Massachusetts: He’s been a senator for all who believe in a dream that’s never died,” she said, invoking her uncle’s speech to the 1980 Democratic convention.

The Democrats’ 2008 convention was gaveled to order with a stream of opening speakers — including a heavy representation of women and Hispanics — who began laying the foundation for the tasks that Obama and his advisers hope to accomplish during the four-day event. And throughout the day, aides to Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Obama worked to ease tensions over the Clintons’ roles at the convention in what was amounting to a strained passing of the generational torch.

In a speech to the New York delegation earlier in the day, Clinton strongly urged her supporters to vote for Obama at the convention. And Obama, campaigning in Davenport, Iowa, said he had spoken to former President Bill Clinton at length earlier in the week and made clear that he welcomed Bill Clinton’s role at the convention, and that he was welcome to talk about any topic he wished on Wednesday night.

ing itself into the biggest week of the Obama campaign. “Any time we can get our side of the story out,” McDonald said, “that’s a good thing.”

Democrats say they will be no less aggressive during the Republican convention next week.

Even four years ago, the campaign of President Bush, whose war room was as intense as any before it, ran no advertisements against Sen. John Kerry as he prepared to accept the Democratic nomination in Boston. Since this weekend, the McCain campaign and the Republican Party have released three advertisements aimed at picking up disaffected Clinton supporters. In one, Clinton is quoted questioning Obama’s resume and saying: “Sen. McCain will bring a lifetime of experience to the campaign. I will bring a lifetime of experience.”

WEATHER

Fay-ding to Gustav

By Brian H. Tang

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Though the days are gradually getting shorter and the weather less torrid, the heart of the Atlantic hurricane season is upon us. The most recognizable impact from hurricanes is their ferocious winds, but fresh water flooding is a serious threat from any landfalling storm, weak or strong. Last week, Tropical Storm Fay dumped upwards of 27.5” (70cm) of rain on Florida and south Georgia as it zigzagged left and right like a wandering traveler unsure of his/her final destination. As a comparison, Boston has recorded 26” (66cm) of precipitation since February 15!

Now that Fay is raining itself out over the southeast, Tropical Storm Gustav has quickly formed in the central Caribbean Sea. The National Hurricane Center forecasts Gustav to strengthen in to a hurricane and be close to Haiti and Cuba today and Wednesday. These areas were severely impacted by Fay’s heavy rains as well, so flooding will be a serious concern. It is too early to tell whether Gustav will pose a threat to the US.

Extended Forecast

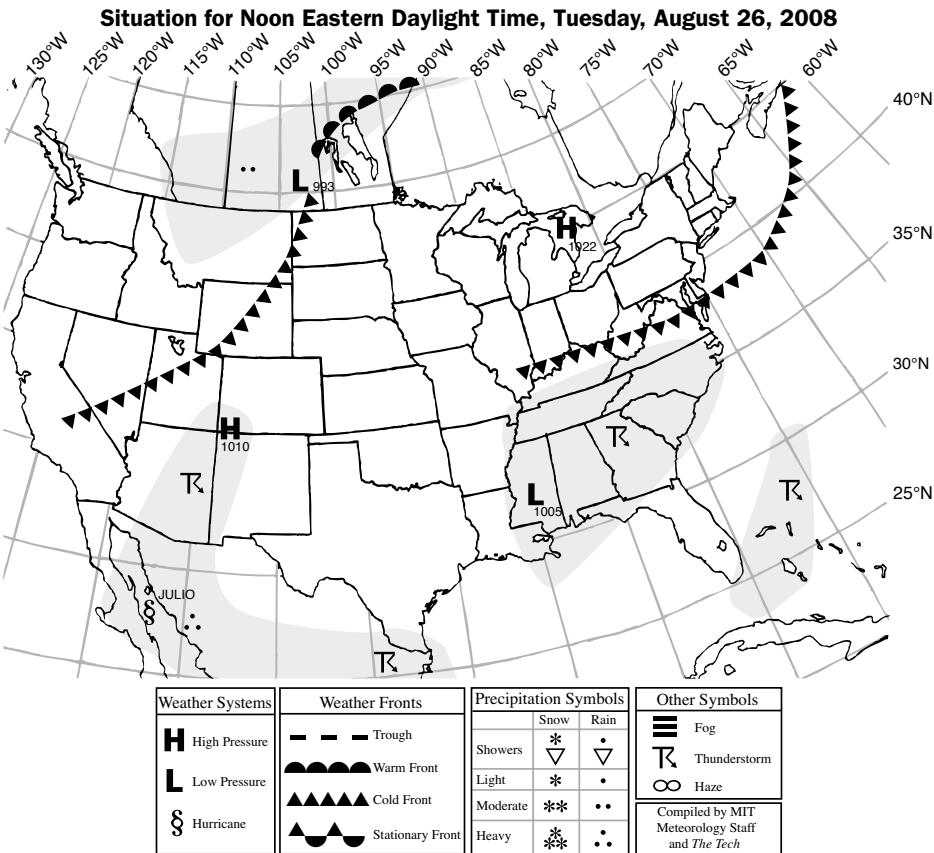
Today: Mostly sunny and drier. High 72°F (22°C).

Tonight: Clear. Low 58°F (14°C).

Tomorrow: Sunny with an afternoon sea breeze. High 74°F (23°C).

Tomorrow night: Clear. Low 61°F (16°C).

Thursday: Sunny with an afternoon sea breeze. High 78°F (26°C).



In Separatist Area of Georgia, Residents Cheer Russian Support

By Ellen Barry and Matt Siegel
THE NEW YORK TIMES

TSKHINVALI, GEORGIA

The last time South Ossetia declared independence from Georgia — the last three times, actually — hardly anyone noticed. Even Russia, its great friend to the north, declined to take up the cause.

South Ossetia is a piece of mountainous land with a population of around 70,000. The capital, Tskhinvali, is a mess of crumbling apartment blocks, their facades pocked with bullet holes. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, it has had no economy to speak of, except for apple orchards and illegal trade in drugs, armaments and counterfeit \$100 bills.

But a lot has changed in the last two weeks.

First Georgia, then Russia, sent troops into South Ossetia earlier this month, making the tiny territory the center of a Cold War-style struggle between Russia and the West. On Monday, Tskhinvali residents listened over a loudspeaker in the city's main square to a live broadcast from

Moscow, where the Russian Parliament voted unanimously to support independence for South Ossetia and Abkhazia, a second breakaway region, on Georgia's Black Sea coast.

The news spread quickly, and people leaned out car windows with Russian and South Ossetian flags, spraying pedestrians with champagne.

"Finally, finally, Russia has acknowledged that we exist, and that we have suffered," said Vova Bakayev, 41, an Ossetian soldier stationed outside Tskhinvali's makeshift International Press Center.

Official recognition will require the signature of the Russian president, Dmitri A. Medvedev. Even then, its relevance would be largely symbolic. Most Western countries have pledged to support Georgia's territorial integrity, and Georgian officials say a unilateral recognition by Russia would be meaningless.

But that hardly dampened spirits in Tskhinvali. The capital was shelled by Georgian forces on Aug. 7, sending many of its people to cower in basements. But Russia quickly stormed in, chasing out Georgian

troops and pushing well into Georgia proper. It has mostly pulled back but has maintained a strong troop presence in South Ossetia.

Citizens here said the military action and parliamentary vote amounted to a lasting pledge of protection by Russia and its allies.

"I think after Russia, we will be recognized by, for example, Belgrade, for example, China, and maybe Syria, and also Belarus," said Alexei Sanokoyev, 23, an analyst for the South Ossetian government's foreign policy department, which has covered its broken windows with clear plastic sheeting.

"And Cuba, of course," he added.

As Georgia grappled with two separatist regions, Abkhazia was always the bigger prize: It occupies a strategic position on the Black Sea coast, and was a beloved seaside resort in Soviet days. South Ossetia could not even boast of a gravel and concrete industry, as Abkhazia could. Many longtime observers expected hostilities to flare up in Abkhazia, whose separatist leaders have adamantly demanded independence.

Pakistan's Civilian Government Collapses After Party Leaves

By Jane Perlez
THE NEW YORK TIMES

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

Pakistan's fledgling civilian government collapsed on Monday, as the leaders of the main two coalition parties turned their sights on each other, only a week after banding together to force the resignation of Pervez Musharraf.

The coalition's failure, after only five months of leading Pakistan, worsened the leadership crisis in this nuclear-armed nation at a time when it faces a serious threat from the growing strength of the Taliban in the northwestern parts of its territory.

Now the deepening rivalry between the two party leaders — Asif Ali Zardari, the widower of the slain former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, and Nawaz Sharif, a former prime minister himself — will play out in the coming elections for president.

Zardari, leader of the larger Pakistan Peoples Party, decided last week to run for the office — one of several reasons why Sharif, who leads the Pakistan Muslim League-N, gave for leaving the coalition and naming his own candidate. Sharif said that Zardari, relatively new to day-to-day politics

though increasingly influential inside Pakistan and with Washington, had broken several promises that made it impossible for him to stay in the government.

"We have been forced to leave the coalition," Sharif said in a news conference here in the capital. "We joined the coalition with full sincerity for the restoration of democracy. Unfortunately, all the promises were not honored."

The departure of Sharif, whose party sat uneasily with the Pakistan Peoples Party, is unlikely to result in immediate nationwide elections. The PPP holds the most seats in the Parliament, but not a majority.

Political analysts said that they expected the party would be able to cobble together a new parliamentary coalition with smaller parties. Sharif said his members would sit in the opposition in the Parliament and try to play a constructive role.

Meantime, voting for president — who is not chosen by direct elections but by the Parliament and four provisional assemblies — is scheduled for Sept. 6.

With Sharif and Zardari's common foe gone and their pragmatic unity

crumbling, the main problem between them remains a profound disagreement over the future of the former chief justice, Iftekhar Mohammed Chaudhry. Chaudhry was fired by Musharraf in March 2007, reinstated by the court in July and placed under house arrest in November.

He was finally freed in March of this year, but has yet to be restored to the bench.

Sharif has insisted that Chaudhry — along with some 60 other judges, who were also fired in November when Musharraf declared emergency rule — be restored to the bench.

To drive home the point about broken promises, Sharif released an accord signed by him and Zardari on Aug. 7.

The document shows that they agreed that all the judges would be restored by an executive order one day after Musharraf's impeachment or resignation. But Zardari stalled.

In an interview with the BBC Urdu-language radio service on Saturday, Zardari defended his position, saying agreements with the Pakistan Muslim League-N were not "holy like the holy Quran."

Iraq's al-Maliki Pushes for U.S. Troop Withdrawal Date

By Campbell Robertson and Riyadh Mohammed
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD

Days after top Iraqi and U.S. officials suggested that a draft of the security pact between the countries was close, Prime Minister Nouri Kamal al-Maliki toughened his language, reiterating earlier Iraqi demands for a fixed date for the withdrawal of U.S. troops.

"It is not possible for any agreement to conclude unless it is on the basis of full sovereignty and the national interest, and that no foreign soldiers remain in Iraqi soil after a defined time ceiling," al-Maliki said in a speech to Shiite tribal leaders in Baghdad's Green Zone.

The Bush administration has consistently emphasized that the agreement — needed to legalize the presence of U.S. forces after the U.N. mandate expires at the end of this year — is still in draft form.

"These discussions continue, as we have not yet finalized an agreement," a White House spokesman, Tony Fratto, said Monday. "We're optimistic that

Iraq and the U.S. can reach a mutual agreement on flexible goals for U.S. troops to continue to return on success, based on conditions on the ground, and allow Iraqi forces to provide security for a sovereign Iraq."

Though al-Maliki seemed to be referring to all foreign troops in his statements, Iraqi negotiators have said recently that an agreed-upon 2011 date is for combat forces only, and that "training and support" forces could remain after that if invited by the Iraqi government. On Monday, a senior Iraqi official said he understood that even a departure date for combat troops would be "conditions driven."

But the prime minister is under intense political pressure to take a hard line against the Americans, even as his government engages in negotiations. Graffiti can be seen on the walls in Shiite districts of Baghdad saying, "Iraq for sale: See Maliki."

Al-Maliki also said that there were other parts of the security pact on which the sides had yet to agree. Those points of dispute, he said, include Iraqi approval of U.S. military operations and the scenarios under

which U.S. soldiers will be granted immunity.

"There are some articles on which we are stopped," he said. "Unless these articles are changed, it will be hard for this agreement to pass."

Iraq is prepared to grant immunity to U.S. soldiers who are on bases or are conducting military operations, the Iraqi government spokesman, Ali al-Dabbagh, said in a telephone interview, but insists that they be subject to Iraqi law in any other circumstances.

Hadi al-Ameri, an Iraqi lawmaker, said immunity was "the most complicated issue remaining."

Al-Dabbagh said there was also disagreement over whether Iraqi detainees could remain in U.S. custody. Iraq has been demanding that anyone detained by U.S. forces be turned over to the Iraqi authorities within 24 hours.

On Monday morning, a U.S. soldier was shot in Adhamiya, a Sunni neighborhood in Baghdad that was once a breeding ground for insurgents but has since become safer. The soldier was transferred to a military facility, where he died of his wounds, the military said in a statement.

Dozens Are Killed in Raid on Darfur Camp

By Lydia Polgreen

THE NEW YORK TIMES

DAKAR, SENEGAL

Dozens of people were killed and more than 100 were injured Monday in a government assault on a huge camp for displaced people in Darfur, the conflict-riddled region in western Sudan, according to witnesses and leaders at the camp.

Workers from the aid group Doctors Without Borders were treating 65 people at the camp for gunshot wounds, half of them women and children. About 45 severely wounded people were later evacuated to a hospital in the regional capital, Nyala, about 15 miles away, said Jose Hulsenk, the Darfur coordinator for the Dutch section of Doctors Without Borders.

Hussein Abu Sharati, a spokesman for the roughly 90,000 displaced people living in the camp, said dozens of heavily armed vehicles operated by Sudanese security forces surrounded the camp at dawn and opened fire.

The Sudanese police released a statement in Nyala on Monday saying that the operation had been carried out to seize weapons stored at the camp. It contended that Darfur rebel groups were planning to use the weapons to carry out assassinations.

The camp, a sprawling collection of shacks and mud huts known as Kalma, is one of the oldest, largest and most volatile in Darfur, where 2.5 million people have been chased from their homes and 300,000 have died in a 5-year-old conflict pitting non-Arab rebel groups against the Arab-dominated government.

Israel Releases Palestinian Prisoners

By Isabel Kershner

THE NEW YORK TIMES

RAMALLAH, WEST BANK

Israel on Monday released 198 Palestinian prisoners in a move intended to bolster the Palestinian president, Israel's negotiating partner, hours before U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice arrived in the region to try to nudge forward Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts.

Before embarking on two days of talks with top Israeli and Palestinian officials, Rice told reporters on the plane to Tel Aviv that there was a "lot of work ahead" if the sides hoped to reach a peace agreement by the end of the year.

Still, Rice also said it was "extremely important to just keep making forward progress rather than prematurely to come to some set of conclusions," according to remarks released by the State Department. It appeared to be an acknowledgment of the Israeli and Palestinian negotiators' reluctance to come to a hasty partial agreement, despite the eagerness of the Bush administration for results before its term ends in January.

While Rice's visits here have become routine — this is her seventh since this round of peace negotiations began in November — the prisoner release was a rare cause for celebration in the West Bank. Jubilant Palestinians clambered atop buses that carried the freed prisoners into Ramallah, while a convoy of cars bedecked with flags, horns honking, accompanied them to the presidential headquarters where hundreds of relatives were waiting.

Afghans Want a Deal on Foreign Troops

By Carlotta Gall

THE NEW YORK TIMES

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

The Afghan Council of Ministers decided Monday to review the presence of international forces and agreements with foreign allies, including NATO and the United States, after a series of military operations that have caused mounting civilian losses.

The ministers demanded a status of forces agreement, which would stipulate that the authority and responsibilities of international forces be negotiated, and they said that aerial bombing, illegal detentions and house raids by international forces must be stopped.

The declaration came after several military operations involving U.S. forces resulted in civilian casualties, most recently airstrikes in western Afghanistan on Friday that killed more than 90 people, most of them women and children, according to a government commission. The U.S. military is investigating the latest episode; it earlier said the airstrikes had killed five civilians and 25 militants.

As security has deteriorated in the country and economic conditions have worsened, the government and its international partners have encountered rising popular dissatisfaction.

Heavy-handed bombing raids and house raids, which are seen as culturally unacceptable by many Afghans who guard their privacy fiercely, and the detention of hundreds of suspects for years without trial at the Bagram air base and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, have stirred up Afghans' strong independent streak and ancient dislike of invaders.

Hindu-Christian Violence Flares in India

By Somini Sengupta

THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW DELHI, INDIA

The remote, destitute state of Orissa, marred for years by Hindu versus Christian violence, erupted in a retaliatory killing on Monday after the murder of a Hindu leader led a mob to burn small Christian churches, prayer halls and an orphanage that had housed 21 children.

The police said a woman's body, charred beyond recognition, was found inside the church orphanage. The church's pastor, whom the police did not identify and who was injured in the fire, told the authorities that the body was that of a nun working there. No children were injured.

The attack on the orphanage on Monday, in an isolated district called Bargarh, came after the killing Saturday of a Hindu leader who had been associated with the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, or World Hindu Council, and who was leading a drive to wean local villagers from Christianity. Radical Hindu groups like the council are vehemently opposed to conversions to Christianity, which in India tend to focus on traditionally downtrodden lower-caste and indigenous groups, and have lately taken to conducting mass ceremonies to reconvert them to Hinduism.

The Hindu leader who was killed, Laxmanananda Saraswati, was among five people slain by unidentified armed men who stormed a Hindu school in the nearby district of Kandhamal. The police blamed Maoist insurgents who prevail in the area. Saraswati's followers, however, blamed Christians, and called for a statewide strike on Monday. The state government ordered all schools closed.

OPINION

Welcome to MIT



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By Andrew Lukmann

Orientation is a wonderful and exhilarating time to be on campus. Representatives from the many diverse segments of the MIT community — from living groups to student activities, athletics teams and learning communities — are part of the process of showcasing this amazing place to the incoming class. Since this is my sixth year on campus participating in orientation, I can tell you that no year’s events are ever quite the same — there are always new things to discover. In fact, there seem to be so many sessions, events, demonstrations and parties that it can sometimes seem completely overwhelming.

Though it can often seem too much to handle in just a few days, Orientation is your introduction to life the MIT way — as the saying goes, it’s like drinking water out of a firehose. Make the most you can of the experience. This is a wonderful time to make new and long-

lasting friendships, to explore the campus and the surrounding community, and to uncover the many exciting opportunities there are to live and learn at MIT. However, somewhere amidst all of the running around and all of the consumption of free food, try to take a few minutes during this week to reflect on how you think you can fit into this unique community — we all have our role here, our piece of the puzzle.

For example, consider well whether your assigned dormitory is really the right fit for you — you can always try to switch. Think twice about skipping important Rush events — you may be missing out on that living community where you might most feel at home. Take a chance and sign up on the contact list for that interesting club or student activity you saw at the Activities Midway — I assure you, you will actually have plenty of time to participate.

Don’t worry quite yet about classes — that’s for next week. Don’t worry quite yet about unpacking — you’ll probably have to move to a new room anyway. Try your best not to worry

too much about your parents (I know that can be a challenge). Instead, you should worry about spreading your roots in this special new environment. Even though MIT is certainly different from your high school, in time it can become just as comfortable and supportive if you find the right living groups, activities and programs to support you in your time here.

In these pages over the next few days, we will publish columns from representatives of some of the various elements of the MIT community that make this place so special. These pieces will elaborate on the way that living communities, student activities and student advocacy groups contribute to student life here and how participating in these endeavors can fundamentally affect your MIT experience.

I hope that these features can help to guide you on your nascent journey to discover your place in our unique community. Best of luck in your endeavor, congratulations on your auspicious achievement in getting here and of course — Welcome to MIT!

Is This a ‘Daddy’ election?

Why Barack Obama Is Losing This Campaign

By Keith Yost

Two months ago, it looked like the McCain camp was in shambles. The Arizona senator was struggling to read from a teleprompter, giving speeches in front of garish green backdrops, and standing behind podiums that made him look small and awkward. His campaign organization was muddled, full of deadweight managers who lacked the skills to play in the big leagues, but whom the senator didn’t have the heart to fire. And instead of moving to the center, as most candidates do in the general election, McCain, if anything, was moving to the right. In national polls he was only behind by four points, but with the enthusiasm gap, the fundraising numbers, and the dismal condition of the Republican brand, pundits were confident that John McCain was well on his way to a crushing defeat in November.

Fast forward to the present. The once-stumbling McCain is now outclassing his opponent in forums like the Saddleback Club. The once-muddled campaign has squared away the deadweight and replaced it with top Republican operatives. And the once-ridiculed move to the right is paying dividends. With surging numbers in the polls, electoral vote predictors like FiveThirtyEight.com have watched John McCain go from a five-to-two underdog to a slight favorite.

It’s not luck. Despite his poor public speak-

ing, his organizational problems, and the rotten condition of the party, two months ago McCain held one advantage over Barack Obama that would trump everything else: he understood the difference between a mommy election and a daddy election.

A mommy election is an election focused on economic issues: health care, job growth, education. Democrats win mommy elections.

A daddy election is an election focused on national security issues: the War on Terror, foreign policy, Iraq. Republicans win daddy elections.

On May 26th, in an Associated Press interview, John McCain laid down the gauntlet, challenging Barack Obama to visit Iraq and see the situation on the ground for himself. Had Obama understood the importance of keeping the national focus on the economy, he would have immediately answered McCain’s challenge with one of his own: “Senator McCain, I want you to visit Detroit with me. I want you to see the situation on the ground for yourself. I want you to see the conditions that American citizens are living in.”

Instead, Obama hemmed and hawed and talked about how he’d “consider” visiting Iraq. For two straight weeks McCain stayed on message, pummeling Obama with his challenge. “It’s a trap!” cried the talking heads. If Obama visits Iraq, then the conversation shifts to foreign policy, but if he doesn’t visit Iraq he leaves McCain an opening to keep bringing foreign

policy up, again and again and again.

In the end, Obama made the best out of a lose-lose situation. With a masterfully orchestrated international tour and a catchy one-liner (“George Bush and John McCain don’t have a strategy for success in Iraq — they have a strategy for staying in Iraq.”), he not only passed the McCain challenge, but also used the opportunity to sound more hawkish on a range of foreign policy issues, from Iran to Iraq to Israel. By closing the policy gap between himself and Senator McCain, Obama denied his opponent the traction needed to push foreign policy issues back into the limelight. For a week, John McCain could do nothing but split hairs between horizons and timetables. And so, at the start of August, it looked like Obama would have an opportunity to push the focus back on to the economic issues where he was handily defeating his opponent: Health care, the economy, and education.

Instead, Obama stepped off of O-Force One without a clear message. The vacuum was quickly filled with talk of offshore drilling and speculation as to why Obama’s international tour didn’t give him a bounce in the polls. The Illinois senator, seemingly oblivious to the risks he was taking by not taking the initiative back from John McCain, decided to go on a Hawaiian vacation. August 7th, the start of the 2008 South Ossetian War, found Obama on a sandy beach, shirtless and flatfooted. With foreign policy issues once again front and center, McCain easily surged ahead.

If Obama is to have a chance in November, he needs to be much more aggressive in bringing economic issues back into the forefront of the election. He cannot simply sit back and wait for national security issues to die down; there will always be a South Ossetia War somewhere in the world. It could come in the form of concerns about China’s rise following their Olympic performance, or violence and uncertainty in Pakistan, or a terrorist attack at home or abroad — whatever the form that it comes in, Obama must understand that left unopposed, John McCain will make national security the center of the race.

James Carville’s advice to Bill Clinton on how to win the 1992 election rings just as true today: It’s the economy, stupid.

Keith Yost is a graduate student in the Department of Nuclear Science and Engineering and the Engineering Systems Division.



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One Moment in Time

The 2008 Beijing Olympic Games

By Qing Hao

Someone once said that a movie endowed with five unforgettable scenes is a classic. As the most anticipated event of 2008, the Beijing Olympic Games captivated the world with many moving and magical moments. Each second was a motion picture packed with life and passion. Thus, I had a hard time figuring out where to start after my friends asked me to write an article about this monumental event.

From any vantage point, China put forth a tremendous effort in hosting this Olympic Games, as judged by the grand stadiums, the professional organizations, and the tens of thousands of enthusiastic volunteers. World records and Olympic records were shattered one after another, challenging the physical limits of the human body. As a hero who perfectly embodied the Olympic and American spirit, Michael Phelps reached a pinnacle moment by earning eight gold medals in a single Olympics. Then, like a comet, Usain Bolt blazed through the 100m and 200m sprints — making him an Olympic phenomenon overnight. The astonishing athletes occupied the headlines of the major media outlets throughout the Games, and their marks will forever be etched in the history of the Olympic movement.

Speaking of history, who was not mesmerized by Zhang Yimou’s cinematic rendition of China’s evolution and essence since ancient times? Who was not awestruck by the sheer magnificence of the performances made pos-

sible by the thousands of actors moving in surreal synchronization? Aside from the splendid opening night, every visitor to China must be impressed by the beauty and vitality of its capital, Beijing, a city that integrates both modern styles and ancient tastes. When 8/8/08 finally dawned upon Beijing, concerns about air pollution and sandstorm suddenly slipped away from people’s minds. Instead, everyone was waiting to be wowed by the achievements and surprises that China promised after years of dedication and preparation. With 51 Gold out of 100 medals won, China went beyond the most optimistic prediction and far exceeded its 32-Gold-medal record set in Athens.

As one of the most rapidly growing countries, China never ceases to embrace the outside world and improve itself along the way. For those who only learned of China from the media, this Olympic Games provided a perfect chance for them to gain first-hand insight into the heart of the country. Hosting the Olympic Games will help the citizens of other nations to learn more about the real China and reduce the barriers between them. Only with better understanding can all countries cooperate together to solve the important problems facing the world. And only with lasting friendships and solidarity can the mission of the modern international Olympic movement become a reality.

Besides the sports and global relations issues, how will the 2008 Olympic Games affect the common people in China? For a country still underdeveloped in many regions and recovering from the most disastrous

earthquake in decades, in retrospect, was it wise for the nation to expend such effort — in wealth and manpower — to host this two-week event? Throughout the last few weeks, these questions have been discussed on various online forums and even during my lunch chatting with others. For the Games itself, the budget of roughly 2.2 billion US dollars (49% covered by the International Olympic Committee) will not register as a deficit according to the official news and can be balanced by related sales such as the broadcasting rights. The additional cost to improve the Beijing’s transportation system and to reduce the air pollution is not only important for the Games but will also be beneficial for the long-term development of the city, whose economy and population keep increasing through the years. The Olympics simply forces the government to solve these inevitable problems in a more timely fashion.

This time, the China Olympic Committee emphasized a unique concept called the “Green Olympics.” Environmental and energy saving issues were taken very seriously during the entire construction process. In the last two decades, the rapid economic growth in China was heavily indebted to the sacrifice of the environment. As industrial pollution began to significantly affect the everyday life quality in some regions, a concept called “Continuable Development” was set in place in past years. However, this concept was lacking in action, especially when it conflicted with the profits of local industry. Some may argue about the effectiveness of using the Olympics as a plat-

form to advertise scrutiny of environmental quality. However, it strongly demonstrates the concern and dedication of China’s government to solving this urgent problem. The successful experiences of the green improvements could be transferred to other large cities such as Shanghai and Guangzhou that also suffer from environmental problems. Regarding energy efficiency, numerous new technologies were developed to reduce the operating cost of the modern stadiums. For example, air conditioning load can be significantly reduced by using phase change materials in floor tiles that can store extra heat and minimize the fluctuation in indoor temperature during the day. These research projects started even earlier than the MIT energy initiative and are now ready to be commercialized and compensate for the rapidly growing energy consumption in China.

For one moment in time, China realized its dream to embrace the world in its arms. As the Olympic Games come to a close, everything will return to normal in the nation — but the memories will live on. I am sure that many of you will never forget about some of the exciting moments in Beijing Olympics. The spirits and triumphs of the athletes will always encourage us to push our own limits in the things we are doing. Too bad we have to wait another four years until the London Olympics!

Qing Hao is a graduate student in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and wrote this column on behalf of the MIT Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA).

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CAMPUS LIFE

Ramblings from Hell

What happened to my days of yore?

By S. Campbell Proehl
STAFF COLUMNIST

As I was driving up to Boston from my home in New York for the last time this past Saturday, I remembered my orientation at MIT. For a second I panicked, because it seemed like I had grown up in the span of a second. I now live in an apartment on Beacon Street with a set of pots and pans, a full-sized bed, and a utilities bill — the stuff of old age, or at least the mid-twenties. What if I woke up tomorrow and I was forty years old?

Later that day, my mother and I helped a friend move from Boston back to Burton-Conner and after I came down from delivering the belongings to her suite, I found my mom sitting in our car staring off into space. “I wish I were back at my freshman orientation,” she sighed. Sadly, I wished the same thing. I was seventeen when I came here, ready for classes and parties, and living on my own. I am now almost twenty-one, but I look older (I count ten

wrinkles) and without a Red Bull or two a day, I have the energy of a sixty-year-old. While enviously watching the young freshmen eating their mustard-covered hot dogs and chatting excitedly over the dormitories’ poorly-chosen rock music, I regretted the fact that I haven’t really enjoyed the last three years of college.

Pass/no record was the most romantic time of my life. There was something alluring in the idea of being unable to fail. It became a mindset, and I carpe diemed my way through the fall of 2005.

What happened to my days of yore?

My roommate is (if this is possible) as ready to graduate as I am. We are jaded, anxiously waiting for a change, hoping to find our youth again in the aftermath of receiving our MIT diplomas. I mentioned my concerns to my roommate late last night, while we were bundled up on our couch with heirloom tomatoes, organic corn, cave-aged cheddar, and an independent film (we gave up fraternity parties a long time

ago for the ease of Netflix and the comfort of a good night’s sleep). “I know what you mean,” she responded, “And I have this theory ...”

Her theory went something like this: Freshman year, particularly first semester, most of us do whatever we want — we go to parties, have fun, don’t sleep, and don’t worry about our grades. Then sophomore year we say, “I was such an idiot last year, and I’m going to get my act together and work.” So we work and learn about what it takes to be a straight A student here, which, if I may be frank, is a complete commitment to academics, a fun celibacy, and the ability and desire to renounce spontaneity for the rest of your undergraduate career. Then junior year, we have so much work and hate this place with all of our souls, and wonder about what else there is in life, because if this is it, then God help us. We can’t live like this for the next sixty years. Finally when senior year comes around, we think about things, and make the executive decision that freshman

year was way better, and that we were right not caring about our grades and living life to the fullest.

I was awed by this analysis. This was me. The sulking premed. The tired worker bee. The caffeine addict looking for a patch to help kick her bad habit.

And so, to the new freshmen I must say this: Despite what everyone tells you, Bs are fine, even excellent grades. Don’t worry about your GPA or finding a job, or getting accepted to grad school. Even if other MIT students tell you otherwise, an MIT degree does go a long way. Go out, enjoy Boston, discover the good taverns of Cambridge, and on nice afternoons, walk to Toscanini’s and get yourself an ice cream instead of studying. Spend the next four years doing things that you’ll miss being able to do as an adult. Take time off. Travel. Wake up late and spend a Saturday eating takeout Chinese.

Live life like you only have to pass.

Talk Nerdy to Me

Kissing Is a Dangerous Sport

By Christine Yu
STAFF COLUMNIST

Editors Note: This column is part one of a four part series about rounding the proverbial bases.

My long repertoire of flings began in seventh grade with a baseball player. Eventually, he asked me if I would go to first base with him. At that time, I thought he wanted me to take his place out on the playing field. Except, that just didn’t make much sense. So, I turned to internet search engines where I discovered the meaning of the four bases. Interestingly enough, the only agreed definition is first base and home run. The others happen to be as ambiguous as the term “hooking up.” I’m sure that I’m not the only person who had no idea about this baseball reference, so I thought I’d start the school year

off on first base and go from there.

It makes sense for first base and home run to be clearly defined, as they symbolize the beginning and the ending of physical activity. Knowing how to kiss is vital — it acts as your SAT score, giving an indication, but not necessarily the full picture, and of your future capabilities. If you’re a bad kisser, it’s not going to prevent you from “getting in,” but it’s certainly not going to help you. So, to be informative of dos and do nots of kissing, I thought about comparing kissing styles to functions.

For instance, I thought about saying that someone who doesn’t know when to get their tongue out of your mouth is similar to a function that goes out to negative infinity. Then I realized that just sounds like MIT, and, well, classes haven’t even started yet.

Instead, I decided to just give you some advice that I’ve learned first hand:

DO remember to part your lips. For my first kiss, I forgot to open my mouth. I had this notion that kissing just came naturally. Well, he suffered an allergic reaction to my lip-gloss. Kissing can be a very dangerous sport, and I should’ve learned that then.

DO NOT slobber, that just makes everyone think of dogs, and while I love puppy kisses, when a person does that, it’s not really cute. Teeth licking also makes me think of puppies, and I think it’s safe to say most people aren’t turned on by animals.

DO use your tongue to caress theirs, typically in a circular motion. Go with the flow, though avoid making it mechanic.

DO NOT bite. Like I mentioned earlier, I should’ve learned kissing can be dangerous. Last year, I almost went to MIT Medical because my mouth was bleeding so badly. Now, there’s an unnecessary reminder of an unfortunate hookup. Some people enjoy nibbling; however, I don’t suggest that for a hookup. If you’re in a relationship, just ask the person.

DO explore the other person within reason. For guys, it’s nice to feel the small of her back or rub her lower thigh. By touching her back, she can place your hands elsewhere should she want more. Caressing her face is

also romantic, except, if it’s a hookup, it might come off as creepy. For girls, direct the guy. If you want him to go further, position his hands. Don’t be afraid, trust me, he’s not going to feel violated.

DO NOT randomly grab body parts. There’s nothing that screams desperation more than instantly grabbing genitalia or zippers. (Guys, this means don’t immediately grab her boobs or butt.) Also, the hair is off-limits for many girls, especially if she’s wearing earrings. It sucks when a guy gets his hands caught in your favorite pearls, and they just disappear somewhere beneath a messy futon, never to be found again. Another reason that kissing can be dangerous: you can lose stuff.

DO take a mint, breath strip, or some breath spray before.

DO NOT share already chewed gum. I don’t understand this concept. It’s like feeding someone your chewed food. While some couples enjoy feeding each other, they don’t enjoy feeding each other chewed food.

DO relax yourself. It’s better to laugh at awkward situations than create them.

DO NOT drink too much in an effort to “relax.” First of all, drunken hookups just sound sketchy. Also, you might ruin the person’s favorite drink, forcing them to associate it with all hookups. (*coughs* Captain Morgan) And, just FYI, beer also tastes bad on the breath — since it’s warm and pungent by that time since it’s been lingering in your mouth.

So, keep some ChapStick on hand and start the school year off on first base — just see where you’ll wind up. You might just have to kiss a few frogs before finding your special someone — or so I keep telling myself.



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 - ★ 2. Isaac Hayes just couldn't live in a world without Bernie Mac.
 - ★ 3. Raising a kid right is like making a perfect pancake. Both require a touch of neglect. corollary: a bad crepe often makes a great pancake.
 - ★ 4. There exists a fine line between tradition and racism
- ☺ Cocktail of the Day ☺
- 1 part Campari
 - 1 part pomegranate juice
 - 2 parts O.J.
 - Top w/ club soda
 - Serve w/ a slice of orange

August 26,
2008

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Tech

FUN

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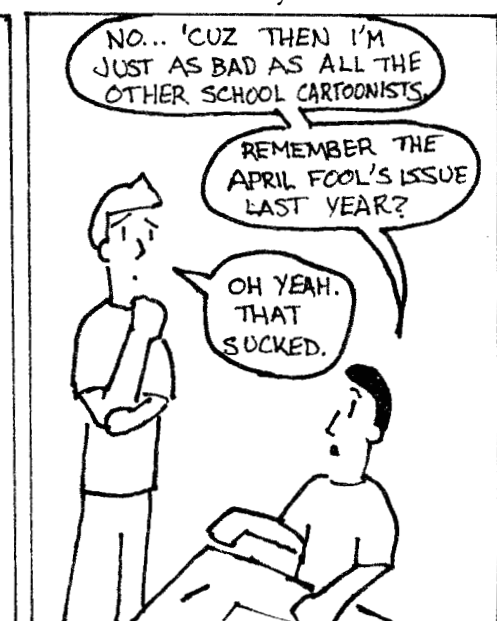
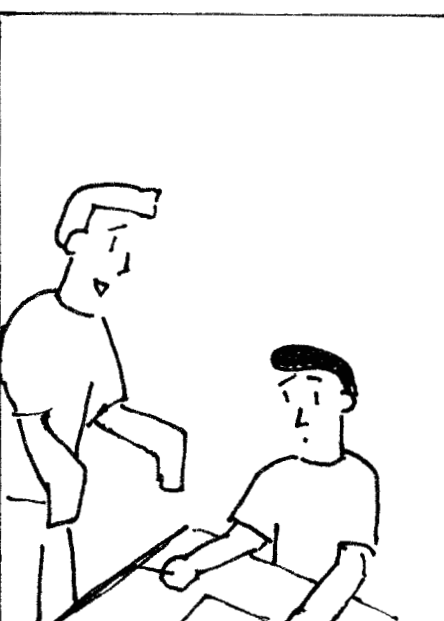
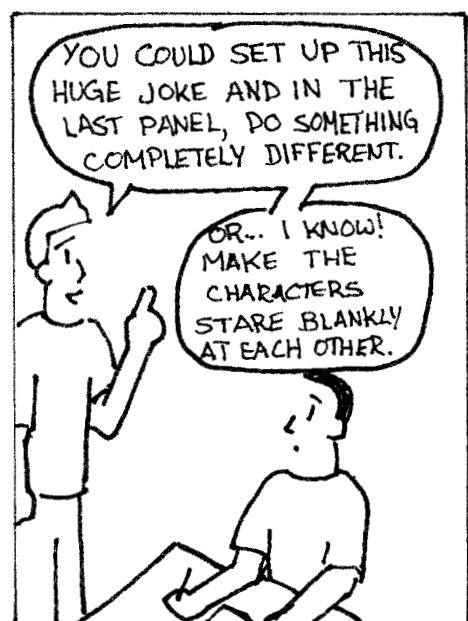
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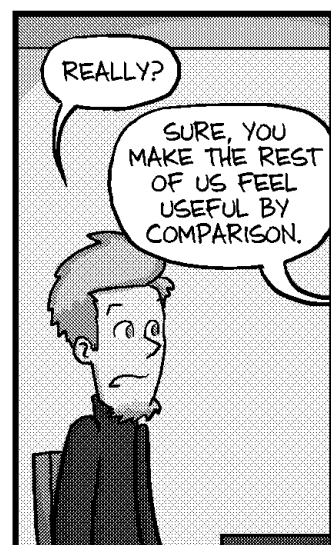
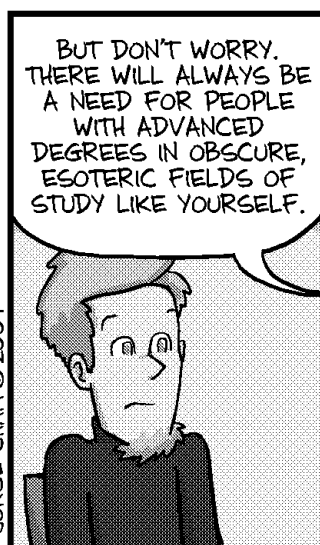
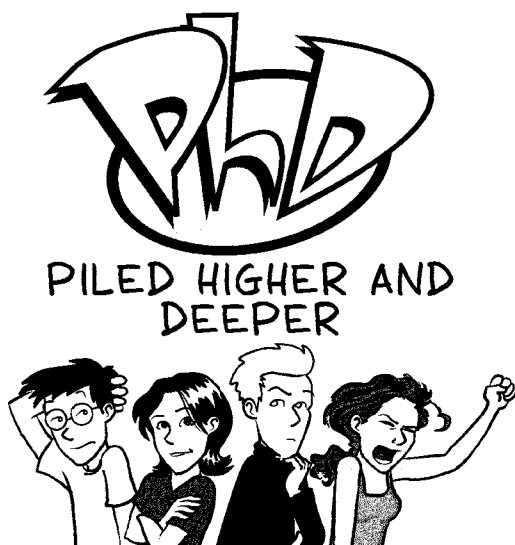
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Doonesbury Flashbacks

Doonesbury Flashbacks

Dilbert®

by Scott Adams

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 11

ACROSS

- 1 Gallico novel,
“Mrs. ___ Goes
to Paris”
- 6 Landed
- 10 Chest
muscles,
briefly
- 14 Indigent
- 15 Company
emblem
- 16 Future DA’s
exam
- 17 Fury
- 18 Clumsy clod
- 19 Farm measure
- 20 Delay, in a way
- 23 Kettle and
Barker
- 24 Kitchen
utensil
- 25 Drive back
- 26 Play parts
- 28 “Moonlight
___”
- 32 Pierre’s
summer
- 33 Keats and
Yeats

- 35 Time for a
shower?
- 37 Delay, in a way
- 42 Deli lure
- 43 Rock
- 45 Beast of
burden
- 48 Mature ones
- 51 Cogito ___ sum
- 52 Grip of the
hand
- 54 Goddess of
the dawn
- 56 Metallic
element
- 57 Delay, in a
way
- 62 Gumbo veggie
- 63 Carpenter’s
file
- 64 First sign of
the zodiac
- 66 With no ice
- 67 Comic
Johnson
- 68 Surgical beam
- 69 Latin being
- 70 Equal
- 71 January in

Juarez

DOWN

- 1 Gasteyer of
SNL
- 2 Burt Reynolds
movie
- 3 Sign up (for)
- 4 Concept in
Cannes
- 5 Pancake
topper
- 6 Unpigmented
- 7 Diving bird
- 8 Stravinsky or
Sikorsky
- 9 Raced
- 10 Metal coat
- 11 Get away
- 12 Floor covering
- 13 Addison’s
partner
- 21 Pops
- 22 Empties
- 23 Cartologist’s
product
- 27 Greek portico
- 29 Like a twangy
voice

- 30 Well-suited
- 31 Dent starter?
- 34 Bit of trouble
- 36 Running
behind
- 38 Fishing pole
- 39 ___ Darya River
- 40 Fabled racer
- 41 Railroad man
- 44 Forever and a
day
- 45 Moss Hart’s
autobiography
- 46 Quenches
- 47 Native-born
Israelis
- 49 Short fuse
- 50 Great Lakes
canals
- 53 Roofing stone
- 55 Trite
- 58 Greenside
hazard
- 59 Loser to 40D
- 60 Italian noble
family
- 61 Tehran’s land
- 65 Full-house
letters

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
	20				21					22				
23				24						25				
26			27		28		29	30	31			32		
33				34			35				36			
	37				38	39					40	41		
				42						43				44
45	46	47		48				49	50		51			
52			53					54		55		56		
57					58	59	60				61			
62					63					64				65
66					67					68				
69					70					71				

Housing Lottery Ends Earlier To Accommodate Next House

Housing, from Page 1

usual today, at 4 p.m. instead of 6:30 p.m., because students moving in and out of Next House will need to be assigned new advisers.

The timetable of REX was also moved up to accommodate the change.

This year, Baker House was the most requested dormitory, with 300 students selecting it as their first choice dormitory. Following Baker are Simmons with 195 students indicating it as their first-choice, Burton-Conner with 144 students, MacGregor House with 97 students, and East Campus

with 83 students.

There were 1,054 incoming freshmen at the time of the summer lottery, Smedick said. By late last week, the number of incoming freshmen had decreased to 1,049, one of whom is living off campus. “A freshmen ‘melt’ is usually the result of a student deciding to pursue education at another university, delaying admission to MIT, or not attending for other various reasons,” Smedick said in an e-mail.

The Adjustment Lottery opened last Thursday, Aug. 21 at noon and will close today at 4 p.m. The lottery is open to all freshmen interested in changing their fall dormitory place-

ment except those who have been placed in McCormick Hall. Unlike Next House, students in McCormick’s Residence-Based Advising program cannot transfer to other dorms. Last December, when Next House announced the change to their RBA program, McCormick’s housemaster Charles H. Stewart III told *The Tech* that RBA had worked well for the dormitory over the last seven years.

Lottery results will be released tomorrow after 6 p.m., and in-house rush will follow. To enter the lottery or to confirm your summer housing assignment, visit <http://web.mit.edu/housinglottery/>.

What percentage of each dorm’s new residents ranked it as their first choice in the summer lottery?

Residence	Class of 2012	Class of 2011	Class of 2010	Class of 2009
Baker House	100%	100%	100%	98%
Bexley Hall	33%	38%	28%	40%
Burton-Conner	73%	73%	76%	70%
Chocolate City	100%	71%	71%	75%
East Campus	52%	52%	60%	84%
French House	100%	25%	83%	100%
German House	100%	29%	43%	43%
iHouse	100%	100%	—	—
MacGregor House	58%	79%	100%	57%
McCormick Hall	100%	74%	99%	73%
New House	27%	30%	38%	51%
Next House	32%	18%	36%	49%
NW35 / Future W1	85%	—	—	—
Random Hall	84%	100%	100%	100%
Senior House	41%	22%	41%	33%
Simmons Hall	85%	61%	71%	88%
Spanish House	100%	67%	80%	88%

SOURCE: ROBIN SMEDICK, HOUSING

How many freshmen designated each residence as their first choice?

Residence	No. of Freshmen	No. of Spaces for Freshmen
Baker House	300	130
Bexley Hall	13	39
Bruton-Conner	144	118
East Campus	83	112
MacGregor House	97	104
New House	36	85
NW35 / Future W1	24	13
Random Hall	54	25
Senior House	20	58
Simmons	195	130
McCormick Hall	59	59
Next House	44	144
Chocolate City	6	8
French House	4	6
German House	6	9
iHouse	20	6
Spanish House	10	8

SOURCE: ROBIN SMEDICK, HOUSING

Show Will Highlight a Mix of Creativity and Imaging Technologies

Lieberman, from Page 1

Discovery Channel has already ordered a full season of “Time Warp” to join staples like “Man vs. Wild,” “Dirty Jobs,” “American Chopper,” and “MythBusters” — then the handsome and charismatic 30-year-old roboticist and kinetic sculptor could be about to join the ranks of the cerebral geek media hotties, alongside the likes of Ira Glass and Tina Fey.

Lieberman, who doesn’t own a TV and lives in MIT housing, got offered the show in a cold call from a producer who had heard about his work at MIT’s high-speed photography lab. He took it because, he says, it fits nicely into what he calls his daily conflict between art and science.

“Every time I do art, I feel like I’m not serving utility in a direct way,” he said during a break from filming a high-speed video segment involving billiards at the “Time Warp” studio inside an artist’s loft in the Fort Point neighborhood. “Every time I do science, I miss the spark of the creative impulse. But I’ve come to realize it’s the same. In science or art, it’s about introducing people to new truths.”

On the show, Lieberman says the goal is to find things that are amazing yet out of our perception, and bring them into a range that we can comprehend.

“We’ve evolved techniques for taste and sight and sound, but we have just enough to hunt prey and avoid predators,” he said. “But when you tell someone that the rainbow actually goes farther than what you can see, they have a tough time dealing with that. This show is about using science and technology to experience deeper things, to find the deeper sources of awe.”

Lieberman’s work ranges from the cutely clever — on the wall of the “Time Warp” studio is “Moore Pattern,” a kinetic sculpture he created with two counter-rotating discs on top of one another that creates a dizzying effect — to the absurdly complex, such as “Absolut Quartet,” a giant “musical experience” he created with Dan Paluska ’97, a fellow MIT roboticist.

In “Absolut Quartet,” a user entered a short theme — a couple of words at most — into a web page, and the machine, on display in a New York gallery this spring, gen-

erated a unique musical piece with three instruments: a ballistic marimba that launches rubber balls off of wooden keys; robotic fingers that play’ spinning, water-filled wine glasses; and nine ethnic percussion instruments.

In many ways, Lieberman, who is also an accomplished musician and photographer, is the prototypical Media Lab student, said Cynthia L. Breazeal ScD ’00, his PhD adviser in the robotic life group, where Lieberman is focusing on applications of technology in artistic expression.

“He’s the real polymath,” Breazeal said. “He’s strong both technically and artistically, but there’s something else special about him. He’s got a flair. He’s not the stereotypical science and technology guy. He’s able to talk about science as something that’s very hip, and he’s a great person to communicate that to a whole new generation.”

Matt Kearney, who was supposed to be the technical camera consultant for the show but had such good chemistry with Lieberman that he’s now his on-air sidekick, said that Lieberman has found his gear in his ability to translate science to a popular audience.

“I thought it would be pure Mr. Science and my head would spin with boredom,” Kearney said. “What’s good about him is that he doesn’t talk down to you. He tells you the real science in a real way, and expects that you’re smart enough to understand it.”

Whether Lieberman turns out to be the next “Mr. Wizard” — who was one of his childhood heroes, and he’s been mining the show for ideas for “Time Warp” — remains to be seen. But he’s certainly having fun using visual technology to delve into heavy scientific riddles, such as how a hummingbird keeps its beak still, and simple curiosities, like what happens when you yank a tablecloth off a table.

“I think the more that I explore my work — the idea that we have perceptual limits — the more that it becomes obvious that the world was not created for us,” he said as he prepared to go back before the cameras to talk about what really happens when you put English on a billiard ball. “We are part of this vast evolutionary chain of immense complexity.”

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Colombo Living at Next House To Experience MIT Community

Colombo, from Page 1

a great deal at both those institutions with a wonderful, magnificent staff. But I think it was time to think about what my next step was, and this opportunity came forward. [MIT is] a wonderful institution and through the interviewing process, I was fortunate to meet a great number of students, as well as faculty and staff. It really helped me with my decision.

TT: I know you'll be staying at Next House for at least the upcoming academic year. What made you decide to live on campus?

CC: I've always lived by the campuses that I've worked at. I think it's important for the dean to be available to students as much as possible. Obviously, I will have a family life. My family is very committed along with me to make sure that my availability is there.

At Columbia, I lived right across the way, in university housing as

well. I had the opportunity to host students and faculty and others within the apartments ... so when they gave me the opportunity to live on campus, I thought it was wonderful and a great way to immerse myself as quickly as I could within the community.

TT: Based on what you know so far, what do you think are important student life issues at MIT?

CC: The ones that have been brought forward to me are issues of food and housing and community-building, in particular in the graduate population. They are very interested in establishing a community for themselves outside of their departments, while undergraduates normally establish their own communities either through the residences they live in, or the sports clubs, or the extra-curricular activities. ... I think community is something that is really on the minds of MIT students and is something that I will work with them on trying to make better for them.

TT: Do you have any short-term or long-term goals for student life at MIT?

CC: That's very hard to answer. [I've been here] one day.

I think the short-term goals are to get myself as known as quickly as possible within the community — and that's the entire community. Long-term — it will take time to try to understand what those goals should be from the staff and from the students and from others. Students are very willing to — and it's not unusual for students to do this — very willing to let you know what is important to them.

I think what they're most interested in — at least what I've noticed here — is that there is a process where the conversation goes both ways, and not just one way. I'm all for that. You don't want to make a decision that people are not going to be happy with or support.

TT: Speaking more generally, what kinds of changes have you seen in student life in colleges and universities since you were a student?

CC: ... The press loves to label generations — the X, the Y. I think they call this generation — at least the last time I read about it — the Millennials. Each generation comes with different needs and different

expectations. With this generation in particular, families are much more involved, which is interesting because the families, the parents are the Baby Boomers who strived for independence and did all their things during the '60s and '70s.

It's really important to have a clear understanding of what the parents' role is in all of this. I think it's important for them to understand that we're going to work with their children, that they will be making decisions for themselves. While parents certainly have an influence over that, it is important for them to allow that process and that growth to be established.

TT: Any advice for incoming freshmen?

CC: I think first-year students really need to explore as much as they can in their first couple weeks, not being afraid to go out of their comfort zones. They're going to meet students from all over the country and all over the world, and they may not have had that opportunity where they are coming from. ... I think if they explore the institution, explore the people that are here, really establish the kinds of relationships with their classmates as quickly as possible — not just within their residence halls, even though I know that's a very strong established program here, but outside the residence halls, in their departments and in their interests — they will begin feeling very comfortable here at MIT. That's what I intend to do.

TT: How do you spend your free time?

CC: I'll give you what my family will accept, which is that I love to vacation with my family. I have two boys, an eight-year-old and a three-year-old. They're great, great kids. ... We have a real interest in swimming. I love to scuba dive. They don't yet, but hopefully someday they will.

The other way is that I love riding my motorcycle. But that's the piece my family doesn't like ...

TT: What kind of motorcycle do you have?

CC: I have a '76 Harley.

TT: Is there anything else you'd like to tell students about yourself?

CC: I'm happy to be here. I'm really excited about being here. It seems like that people that I'm going to be working with are very interested in making MIT a better place for their students. The campaign that they have established is really geared toward enriching the students' lives here. That's exciting to me, that's been my whole life, and I'm looking forward to this.

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Some Administrators Angry at DormCon, Tech's Daily Confusion

According to Vinayak V. Ranade '09, president of East Campus, a number of administrators and members of the Residential Life Office found the EC entries in last Friday's *Daily Confusion* to be "tasteless."

The *Daily Confusion*, published by The Tech and Dormitory Council, is a listing of REX events submitted by the REX chairs of each dorm. This year, East Campus submitted over 270 entries (the limit for the *Daily Confusion* was 300 events per dorm), many of which included explicit language. All other dorms chose to enter substantially fewer events than the limit.

A statement from the EC House Government says that the entries were written by EC residents "in parody and jest," and that similar language had been used in previous years' issues of the *Daily Confusion* without complaint until now.

"EC is a dorm which has been known for its distinctive and offbeat culture, where the community is very open minded about humor (not unlike the humor in the *Daily Confusion*)," the statement reads. "If people are upset by EC culture and expression in general, then we are dealing with a serious issue of wider scope than just one publication in a student newspaper."

"In spite of this, we acknowledge the possibility of disgruntled parents and community members," the EC statement continues. "It was not EC's intention to offend anyone, and we apologize if the humor was misunderstood."

Donna M. Denoncourt, associate dean of Residential Life, said she would like to resolve the misunderstanding through communication with the goal of "appreciating varying perspectives." She said, "Orientation is about letting freshmen understand and appreciate different cultures of the dorms and if there are ways that we can support and not hinder that opportunity, I think we have accomplished the goals of REX."

—Joyce Kwan



Freshman Cynthia P. Latortue '12 takes a shot while AEPI brothers (from left) Adam Lerer '09, David B. Stiebel '09, Samuel A. Gross '10, Joshua E. Siegel '11, and Theodore A. Blackman '10 cheer on at the AEPI games stall at the Giving Green Carnival on Monday. The Giving Green Carnival was organized by the Student Life Orientation Planning and Events (SLOPE) Committee.

Solution to Sudoku									
from page 7									
2	3	6	5	7	9	8	4	1	
9	5	4	3	8	1	2	7	6	
7	8	1	4	2	6	9	5	3	
8	1	3	6	5	4	7	2	9	
6	4	9	7	3	2	1	8	5	
5	7	2	9	1	8	3	6	4	
1	2	5	8	6	3	4	9	7	
4	6	8	1	9	7	5	3	2	
3	9	7	2	4	5	6	1	8	

Solution to Crossword									
from page 8									
A	R	R	I	S		A	L	I	T
N	E	E	D		L	O	G	O	
A	N	G	E	R		B	O	O	R
T	I	E	U	P	I	N	R	E	D
M	A	S		P	A	N		R	E
A	C	T	S		S	O	N	A	T
P	O	E	T	S		A	P	R	I
P	R	O	C	R	A	S	T	I	N
			A	R	O	M	A		S
A	S	S		A	D	U	L	T	S
C	L	A	S	P		E	O	S	
T	A	B	L	E		T	H	E	M
O	K	R	A		R	A	S	P	
N	E	A	T		A	R	T	E	
E	S	S	E		P	E	E	R	

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Got some time?

Save a life!

daily confusion

Tuesday, August 26, 2008

08:00

08:00—**Next House**—Weary Waffles (Next Dining): Tired of REX yet? If not, come to Next Dining and grab some breakfast before another busy day — more fresh waffles!
08:00—**Burton Conner**—They're magically delicious.

09:00

09:00—**New House**—Waffle Breakfast: Drop by and start your day off with a delicious waffle breakfast, complete with your favorite toppings.
09:00—**Baker House**—Breakfast @ Baker — If you need any more convincing as to why Baker House is the best, most social, and friendliest dorm, stop by once again for a fabulous breakfast!

10:00

10:00—**Next House**—Memorial Drive Marathon (Meet outside Next entrance): Everyone knows that Next House is one of the farthest dorms from campus ... learn how to make the trek FUN! Bring a few friends or spontaneously aggregate into teams for a

Dorm Row scavenger hunt.
10:00—**MacGregor**—Stop by for a brunch. Still haven't met us (or just hungry)? Stop by for made-to-order omelettes, waffles, fruit, and other delicious breakfast foods. This important MacGregor tradition will give you a chance to fill your belly and get any questions answered.
10:00—**Ashdown House**—After an exciting weekend, enjoy a warm breakfast freshly cooked on our grills. Bacon, pancakes, we have it all.

11:00

11:17—**Random Hall**—Dance — You are invited to a social gathering on the roofdeck of Random Hall. Learn how to rumba, salsa, waltz, foxtrot, and who knows what else.

12:00

12:00—**Senior Haus**—BACON HUGE LATE LAZY BREAKFAST make dirty shapes with the pancake batter. pajamas only. also: BACON eggs BACON BACON coffee BACON juice BACON bacon BACON.
12:00—**Burton Conner**—Nothing replaces homemade cooking. Come check out our awesome kitchens, and learn how to cook for yourself now

that you're living on your own. Or, just wait for the free food at the end. Whatever works.
12:17—**Random Hall**—Have you found what we're looking for? Look around you. Just, look around you. Have you found what we're looking for? That's right, "Random Hall."
12:21—**La Maison Française**—J'ai bu un bien bon verre de bien bon vin blanc vieux.
12:33—**EAsT campUS**—WILL IT BLEND? He's waluigi, not the mad retard!!!

13:00

13:47—**Random Hall**—Carrie's Birthday — May the candles on your cake/ Burn like cities in your wake/ On your birthday ... / Happy birthday

14:00

14:00—**Senior Haus**—LEARN TO TIRESWING donate blood to the tree.
14:00—**Burton Conner**—finger? zephyr? lpq? lpr? Come learn wtf it all means. You may not have any idea what we're talking about, but trust us, 3 weeks from now, you'll be so glad you came.
14:02—**La Maison Française**—Je peux avoir cheezburger? Come enjoy the best (worst?)

the internet has to offer and make your own lolcats à La Maison Française.
14:17—**Random Hall**—Cookies and Smut — Oh ... My ... God! Be a good wench and help us play our new and improved Viking Bingo with our resident collection of cheap and horrible-horriblehorrible romance novels. Come, eat cookies, and explore the depths of Thor's toenails!
14:22—**EAsT campUS**—If your friends don't dance, and if they don't dance, they're no friends of mine.

15:00

15:00—**EAsT campUS**—If anyone needs us we'll be in the ANGRYDOME
15:17—**Random Hall**—Cruft Building — One person's junk computer is another person's tools for artistic expression.
15:35—**EAsT campUS**—Cock-rockets fly 3 stories high!

16:00

16:17—**Random Hall**—Even More LN2 Ice Cream — Liquid nitrogen is cold. So is ice cream. Coincidence?

17:00

17:00—**Senior Haus**—THE GAME you just lost it.

17:00—**Burton Conner**—Homesick yet? We've got all the comforts of home right here: grilled cheese, chicken noodle soup, pb&j ...

18:00

18:30—**EAsT campUS**—Don't go camping and come give us high fives instead

19:00

19:20—**EAsT campUS**—Come find out what's in Mario's sekkrit Rush diary. He wasn't even in a concentration camp.
19:30—**EAsT campUS**—Actually, there's nothing happening at this time, but you can come chill out and be laid back with us, bro.

21:00

21:09—**EAsT campUS**—We're sure you millenials like ROFL-COPTERS, so we have some nonsensical insults for you instead.

Wednesday, August 27, 2008

08:00

08:30—**EAsT campUS**—Don't stop believin', hold on to that feelin'

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1. A \$10.00 minimum balance is required to open this account. Enrollment in a Student Relationship Package under the terms of the CSB Plus, Gold or Platinum Packages is also required. If the account is inactive for a period of six months, a \$3.00 monthly inactivity fee will be charged. There is no monthly fee for the first five years from the account opening date. After five years, the account will revert to a non-Student CSB Relationship Package according to the CSB Plus, Gold or Platinum Package you are enrolled in, and a monthly maintenance fee will be charged if the average monthly balance falls below the required minimum for the enrolled package. See the Personal Account Fee Schedule for current fees for Relationship Banking packages. 2. To receive the iTunes Gift Card, you must pick up and activate your new Cambridge Savings Debit Card at any CSB Banking Center. Limit one iTunes Gift Card per customer. iPod is a registered Trademark of Apple, Inc. Apple is not a sponsor or participant of this promotion. All tax liabilities for this special offer are the sole responsibility of the customer who receives the cash reward. Offer ends October 15, 2008.